



Courtesy photos



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jamie Shultz

(Top two pictures) Last September, Hurricane Ivan caused \$300,000 worth of damage to the Air Force Enlisted Village, an organization dedicated to taking care of the widowed spouses of Air Force servicemembers. (Bottom) Members of Team Ali show off the total amount raised to help the Village recover from the hurricanes. The group delivered \$5,975 to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad, Iraq who is collecting money throughout the Southwest Asia Area of Responsibility for the cause.

## Team Ali raises \$6K for AF Enlisted Village

### CC witnessed devastation firsthand to AF Enlisted Village, talks about experience

Members from the 407th Air Expeditionary Group combined efforts and donated more than \$5,975 to the Air Force Enlisted Village assistance fund recently.

The Air Force Enlisted Village provides a home for the surviving spouses of enlisted Air Force personnel.

The money will be used to help the Village rebuild after last year's devastating round of hurricanes.

It's a cause that has personally impacted Col. Michael J. Nowak, 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander who saw first hand the havoc the hurricanes unleashed.

"The damage that Hurricane Ivan inflicted was incredible; we had a storm surge 9 feet high over the island," said Colonel Nowak, who is deployed from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., where he is the

vice commander of the 96th Air Base Wing.

"It basically flattened everything around it and threw boats into backyards," said Colonel Nowak. "The village was right in its path."

Concerned for their safety, two hours after the hurricane passed he was standing at the Village.

"There was so much devastation in that area, it's hard to describe," said Colonel Nowak. "We are still living with it today in Florida. You see blue roofs everywhere."

After the storms hit, the Federal Emergency Management Agency distributed blue tarps to Florida residents until they could get their roofs rebuilt and some residents still have those same tarps protecting them from more water damage.

"Since Hurricane Ivan's visit to the Air Force Enlisted Village/Enlisted Widows Home in September of last year, everyone has been busy trying to get things back to normal," said retired

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### Good at writing love letters to your spouse? Learn how to get one published in a magazine.



## Village

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Chief Master Sgt. Ken Hair, Air Force Enlisted Village marketing and development director.

"Fortunately, there were no injuries and the widows and residents are doing well," said Chief Hair. "Unfortunately, Ivan left over \$300,000 damage to our facilities and caused major tree damage. ... Since Florida insurance policies have a wind damage waiver deductible, the \$300,000 will have to come out of our operating budget."

The donations from the 407th AEG are already slated for future damage control.

"Your donations and support will help us complete the damage repairs and help us prepare for this year's hurricane season," said Chief Hair. "Thanks so much for your great support to a very special part of the Air Force Family - the enlisted widow."

It's a part of the family that Colonel Nowak frequently and gladly bumps into at his home station.

"The people who live at the Village volunteer at Eglin AFB all the time," said Colo-

**"Your donations and support will help us complete the damage repairs and help us prepare for this year's hurricane season,"** said retired Chief Master Sgt. Ken Hair, Air Force Enlisted Village marketing and development director.

nel Nowak. "You see them at the base hospital, behind the pharmacy and volunteering their time at the Airmen's Attic.

"I'm proud of the folks here for their generosity to help out those who help us, and looking out for the widowed wives and husbands who have helped make the Air Force the great institution it is today," Colonel Nowak said.

Formerly called the Air Force Enlisted Widow's Home, the Village was founded in 1967 by a group of active duty and retired Air Force noncommissioned officers.

In 1975, Teresa Village, an existing 100-apartment complex in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., was purchased and the first residents moved in.

In 1978, Congress authorized the purchase of 79 acres of Eglin AFB land in Shalimar, Fla., to construct a custom-designed facility.

In 1980, it was named the Bob Hope Village. The first residents moved into the Bob Hope Village in 1985.

Teresa Village and Bob Hope Village are the only retirement communities for enlisted

Air Force members in the country.

The Village's primary goal is to offer housing and financial assistance and help widows and surviving spouses of retired Air Force enlisted members.

"After being in the United States Air Force for more than 17 years, you learn about taking care of your fellow blue suitor; whether, they are in the service now or have served in the past," said Master Sgt. Troy Rames, 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron and the Air Force Enlisted Village assistance fund collection point of contact here.

"So the opportunity to help these individuals, who had some really bad luck, makes the amount we raised all the more special," Sergeant Rames said.

Low pay and frequent military moves leave some spouses without careers, home equities, retirement plans or any significant assets. The Village also offers housing to retired enlisted couples of the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard who receive full retirement benefits and meet the eligibility criteria.

"What amazes me is everyone is over

here serving their country, away from loved ones working long hours, and people will still dig down deep and find it in their hearts to support others in need and worthy causes," said Chief Master Sgt. Dennis M. Krebs, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief master sergeant. "As Americans, when the call goes out, we never fail to provide or carry out a challenge or mission, no matter what the circumstances. Thank you Team Ali for your efforts," Chief Krebs said.

The widow and surviving spouses with the greatest need are cared for first and none are refused assistance, according to the Air Force Enlisted Village web site.

"Because you care, we can continue our very worthy mission, to provide a home for our indigent widows and surviving spouses. Thank you!" Chief Hair said.

Some information obtained from the Air Force Enlisted Village web site.

*For more information or to find out how to donate to the Air Force Enlisted Village, go to [www.afenlistedwidows.org/](http://www.afenlistedwidows.org/).*



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Kristy Walker, 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron first sergeant, hands over \$5,975 to Tech. Sgt. Martin A. Bray, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, who was accepting in behalf of Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Krebs, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief master sergeant, at Balad Air Base, Iraq. People from units throughout the 407th Air Expeditionary Group helped raise the money to benefit widowed spouses of Air Force veterans at the Air Force Enlisted Village in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.

**Team Ali salutes the following people who were unit points of contact to collect donations:**

Master Sgt. Troy Rames, 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron; Master Sgt. Kristy Walker, 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron; Master Sgt. Strother Brown, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron; Staff Sgt. Sabrina Witt, 407th ESFS; Senior Airman Stephen Willette, 407th ESFS; Tech. Sgt. Terri Frye, 407th ESFS; Senior Airman Jared Hershberger, 407th ESFS; Senior Airman Brandon Holliman; 407th ESFS; Senior Airman Justin Coates, 407th ESFS; Senior Airman Eric Rackard, 407th ESFS; Senior Airman Clinton Valley, 407th ESFS; Airman Keeley Huwe, 407th ESFS; Master Sgt. Todd Tureskis, 407th ESFS; Master Sgt. Ronald Whidden, 407th ESFS; Master Sgt. George Young, 407th EOSS; Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Wolpink, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron; Staff Sgt. Walter Anderson, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron; Staff Sgt. Erica Clark, 407th ESFS; Staff Sgt. Barry Tibone, 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; and Airman 1st Class Michael Anderson, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

# Make the days count, don't count the days

I miss my family.

As I wobble on the rocks on my way to the Communications Compound, I stop for a second to glance at my surroundings. I see the two satellite dishes which pump all the voice and data traffic on and off the base. I see the telephone "switch" that handles all mission and morale calls, and the network control center that handles each and every bit of non-secure and secure e-mail and data.

And then it hits me. Right now, I'm missing my son's baseball game back home.

I take a deep breath and keep walking, past the visual information center who phenomenally documents just about everything that occurs on this base, and past our ground radio shop who keeps every radio network and public address system on this base humming. Our power production/air conditioning shop is getting an early start as well, performing inspections on all our systems ensuring they stay operational.

Oh, and I also missed my daughter take a first place ribbon in backstroke yesterday.

As I turn to walk into the building, I pass our tech control facility and our communications focal point/help desk folks who were up all night keeping vigilant watch over all of Ali's communications. I'm then greeted by one of my Airman from our small computer/automated data processing equipment work center, who talks

about how they've been working hard to get all these new computers out to the individual units as quickly as possible.

Although I e-mail my family every day, I hadn't talked to them in a few days. I miss hearing their voices.

One last turn around the compound. Our base information infrastructure troops are heading out in their pickup truck for what will likely be an excruciating day in the sun digging trenches, laying cable, fixing phone lines, etc. The satellite communications guys are fixing a microwave module link to the Italian Compound on top of our bunker while our awesome computer security and information assurance office moves out of the bunker because its over 100 degrees in there. Our plans, supply and work group managers are all buzzing this

morning over new projects and programs they are implementing at the beginning of this rotation. I see the postal troops as they head off to the base post office – they never get an easy day out there. Lots of work is getting done as I head back to my office.

And I sit there and think – lots of work is getting done. Each of the 70 plus members of this squadron are all working their hardest to take care of the mission and to make Ali a better base. As their commander, I have to ensure we keep communications opera-

*See Count Page 4*

## Sweating the small details so you don't have to

Welcome to Ali Base, Logistics Supply Area Adder, Camp Cedar II and Camp Mittica; you've arrived just in time to experience the heat of summer in southeastern Iraq.

The areas in and around these military complexes forms the tactical area of responsibility for the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. Defense of the TAOR is a unified effort in accordance with the Integrated Area Defense Plan agreed to by the United States and Italian Army and Air Force.

The 407th ESFS wants to ensure your safety and security during your deployment.

It's difficult work, all the more so due to the extreme climatic conditions, but the

"Our goal is to present a hard target to any potential adversary... Without the collective efforts of all of our joint and coalition military partners, we may all be sweating bullets this summer."

Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Aliff  
407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

squadron is ready for the task. You've undoubtedly noticed that the men and women

of the 407th ESFS wear their Kevlar helmet and level IV body armor while on duty, and you may be asking yourself why? The answer is simple - to survive first contact.

Our goal is to present a hard target to any potential adversary. As defenders we generally can not dictate when, or even if we will be attacked, so we must always be ready to defend the TAOR so that you can complete your mission of supporting the combatant commander.

Our TAOR is huge. It extends for approximately 340 square kilometers in and

*See Details Page 4*



**ALITIMES**  
Formerly known as the Tallil Times  
Established May 16, 2003

### EDITORIAL STAFF

**Col. Michael J. Nowak**  
Commander, 407th AEG

**Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips**  
Editor/Chief, Public Affairs

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Deadline for publication is 2 p.m. Thursday before the week of publication. For more information, call 445-2318, or e-mail the staff.



## Count

Continued from Page 3

tional and moving forward – but my job is made easy by the myriad of warriors in this squadron. All are putting their hard work and sweat (lots of sweat) to great use and Ali is getting better day after day.

I check my e-mail. My son ended up pitching a shut-out. My daughter scored a 100 percent on her reading test. My wife has been running around all weekend driving them from one activity to another without any help from me.

As I read another e-mail, the immortal words written at the bottom of many commanders' signature blocks of every Air and Space Expeditionary Force ring in my mind: "Don't Count the Days...Make the Days Count!"

Professionally, there is no better place for me than out here. I defy any commander who can tell me he or she doesn't get an overwhelming sense of pride and accomplishment serving their country while deployed - much more so than while back at home station.

Personally, deployments are a private agony as I read e-mail after e-mail about all the things I didn't get to do or see because I was out here.

So I get up from my desk and continue to walk around. I'm checking on projects,

talking to customers, organizing programs and doing everything I can to ensure that I stay mission-focused and mission-ready. Every unit on this base can brag that Ali would not function without them...I have to make sure I can say that with every ounce of faith and energy I have.

I'll spend my anniversary this year away from my wife. I'll miss the family Fourth of July picnic, the remainder of baseball and swim season and about a hundred other things I'd like to see or do. However, I refuse to sit around this base and pass my days away by slacking off, taking a leisurely pace at work or apathetically goofing off during the day when I should be making Ali better.

We all came here to work...and to work hard enough that the price we are paying for not being home is worth the difference we can make on this base and this war.

As Air Force professionals, how can we look our families in the eye and tell them that all we did during Operation Iraqi Freedom was "not much?"

I want their eyes to light up when I talk about all we accomplished here and about how I only saw an American flag every so often - but I saw the Iraqi flag flying with pride every day as we helped them move towards their own democracy.

Yes, I miss my family, but if I don't make the days count, I've wasted their time along with my own.

We understand first by knowing the adversary and devising our own TTPs to counter the threat with overwhelming military presence. This is achieved by strict adherence to entry control procedures, internal circulation controls, presence patrols, law enforcement, immediate incident response, and command and control.

We act first by seizing the initiative to deny an adversary key terrain from which to operate. Conducting random antiterrorism measures combined with employment of force multipliers such as night vision devices, military working dogs, electronic detection devices and vehicle mobility enable our defenders to keep an adversary off balance which then disrupts their planning and execution of attack.

The on-going defense of the TAOR is made possible only by the cooperation provided by our joint and coalition military partners. Without the collective efforts of all of our joint and coalition military partners, we may all be sweating bullets this summer.

## Flag Day writing contest

The Ali Chief's Group is sponsoring a Flag Day writing contest. Submissions should be 300 to 500 on words on the topic what does the flag means to you. If chosen, the winner will read their submission at the retreat ceremony Tuesday, June 14 at 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. The deadline for the Flag Day composition is Saturday, June 11. E-mail submission to 1st Lt. Jennifer Mack, 407th Air Expeditionary Group protocol officer. For more information, call Lieutenant Mack at 445-2215 or Master Sgt. Todd Kern, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant, at 445-2083.

## CE help desk hours

The 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron help desk and CE control center is open between 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily for normal duty hours, and can be reached at 445-2237 (2CES). For emergency issues only (air conditioning out in tent or work area, problems with mission critical facilities, or loss of all toilet facilities/electricity in a 24-hour work center), call the fire alarm center at 445-2237 (2CES) after 10 p.m. until 6:59 a.m.

## Enter magazine contest to write love letter to spouse

Military Spouse Magazine is soliciting handwritten but legible love letters from deployed members to their spouses. The letters will be printed in their September and October issue along with the authors' photo. Letters shouldn't include force protection violations or talk about sensitive military topics. Two individuals from Ali Base will be selected. Individuals who wish to enter should bring their letter to the public affairs office located in the headquarter's building by June 20. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips, 407th Air Expeditionary Group public affairs, at 445-2318.

## Avoid fogging equipment

The 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron will be fogging for insects in the dawn hours several times weekly. Although nontoxic to humans, Bedrock Residents are asked to stay inside if they see the fogging trucks. For more information, call 445-2630.

## Details

Continued from Page 3

around Ali Base and the encampments of our military partners. Collectively, we provide a scheme of defense designed to detect, deter and or defeat a postulated threat.

Our defensive scheme is built on the principle of see first, understand first and act first. This is accomplished by understanding our adversary's training, tactics and procedures and employing operational counters to negate that threat.

We see first by our use of technology. For example, the entire 22 kilometer perimeter of Ali Base is protected by a tactical automated sensor system consisting of fiber optic cable, passive infrared and microwave transponders to provide 100 percent intrusion detection capability. This system is supported with remote viewing resources such as unmanned aerial vehicles, closed circuit television cameras and thermal imagers for real time assessment of sensor alarms.

# Newspaper gets new look



# ALITIMES



The Tallil Times is now officially the Ali Times. The name change and new look are designed to honor our Iraqi hosts.

**By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips**

407th AEG Public Affairs

The newspaper received a new, snazzy fashion update this week to pay homage to an old standing tradition.

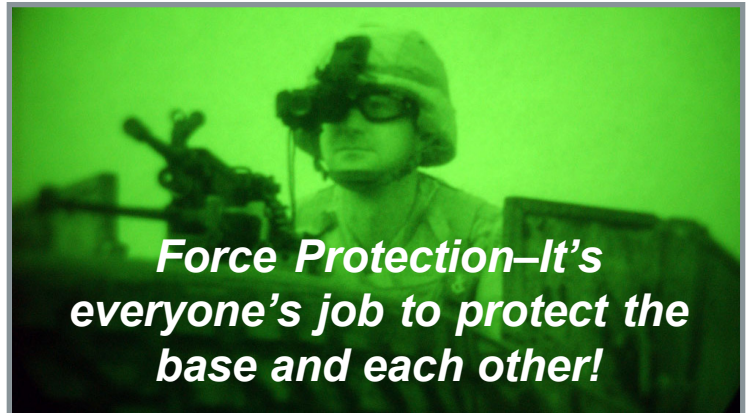
In late January, base leadership changed the name to Ali Base from Tallil Air Base to honor the group's hosts, the Iraqi Air Force.

"Our Iraqi partners have always referred to this installation as Ali Base," said former 407th Air Expeditionary Group Commander Col. Dennis Diggett. "As we look to the future of a free Iraq, we look to the past in building a strong relationship with our host nation. Since the brave military professionals of Squadron 23 refer to our installation as Ali Base, so will we."

As signs around base have slowly changed, the newspaper front page still held strong to the name Tallil Times.

"The base newspaper documents our mission and the important job each of you do daily for our great nation," said Col. Michael J. Nowak, 407th AEG commander. "People around the world can read about the impact you have on fighting terrorism by helping the Iraqi Air Force regain its footing. The paper serves as a living yearbook and testament to all of your hard work, and we wanted to continue in the great tradition set by the previous rotation and change the paper's name to Ali Times."

*The Ali Times graphic was created by Airman 1st Class Jennifer Wallen, a graphics specialist who re-deployed from here to Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.*



**Force Protection—It's everyone's job to protect the base and each other!**

**Don't become a statistic and let crime happen to you!**

Follow these simple tips:

- Report anything suspicious to 445-2041/2232/2600
- Think like an investigator and collect details at the scene of a crime by following the **SALUTE** format.

**S**ize  
**A**ctivity  
**L**ocation  
**U**niform  
**T**ime  
**E**quipment

**Report suspicious activity to the law enforcement desk at 445-2041.**

## Ali Speaks

**What does the U.S. flag mean to you?**



**Staff Sgt. Gibson**  
Courtney, 777th EAMXS  
"It means a sense of accomplishment to me. It signifies being part of something greater than myself."



**Glenda Cleveland,**  
AAFES  
"It represents the United States, which I love living in, and it represents freedom."



**Master Sgt. Gregory**  
Jones, 407th AEG  
"It means that many before us died for our freedoms."



**Tech. Sgt. Ben**  
Maxwell, 777th EAMXS  
"It's a symbol of our great nation - a reminder of the sacrifices of our forefathers. I'm proud of it and to serve in the Air Force."



# 50 seconds between life, death: Fire prevention saves lives

By Tech. Sgt. Joe Graves

407th ECES fire inspector

As Air and Space Expeditionary Force three and four hand over the proverbial keys to five and six, it is critical that as much information about the operation here is passed on. This is especially important when it comes to fire safety.

Fire Prevention is not just the fire departments responsibility. It's yours as well.

Of course the fire department will continue to perform normal duties such as emergency response, fire inspections and pre-planning; however, the day-to-day responsibility falls on each individual.

You're our best defense and offense against tent fires.

Over the next four months, each of us will be challenged to complete our part of the mission effectively.

Let's make sure that we live, work and play safely.

During June, the fire department will conduct fire inspections of all living areas to identify problems that need fixed to safeguard you against fire hazards. Tent chiefs are responsible for making sure their tents are in compliance. However, all tent residents should safeguard their tent against below violations.

**The following is a list of top 10 fire safety hazards commonly found in tent city:**

- No smoke detector or inoperable smoke detector
- No air horn
- Room dividers made of plastic and vinyl
- Rear exit of tent tied from the outside
- Rear exits blocked or obstructed
- Decorative (Christmas) lights inside tents
- Piggybacking of surge protectors
- Two prong extension cords and extension cords used as permanent wiring
- Microwaves and coffee pots inside tents/porches
- Fire extinguisher missing, inaccessible or unserviceable

If you have any questions or concerns regarding fire prevention, call the fire prevention office at 445-2079.



Courtesy photos



Firefighters at a forward operating base in the Southwest Asia Area of Responsibility light a tent on fire to show residents how quickly tents burn. The tent was engulfed within 50 seconds.

**S**

Sound the alarm or air horn and yell, "fire, fire, fire"

**P**

Phone the fire department at 911

**E**

Extinguish fire with fire extinguisher (small fires)

**E**

Direct fire department to the location of fire

**D**

Ensure evacuation (accountability and roll call)

## Life saving tips:

- Keep a knife or cutting instrument beside your bed to make your own exit if entryways are blocked
- Know where your fire extinguisher and air horn is located
- Get down low to avoid smoke inhalation

# NCO asks Iraqi students to tack on stripes

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

407th AEG Public Affairs

1st of 2 part series

## Inside hearts of IAF

### SNCO provides insight into Iraqi culture

One senior noncommissioned officer here chose to have two unusual attendees, or in his words his adopted family, tack on his stripes recently.

Master Sgt. Bubba Beason, 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron pneudraulic systems technician instructor who is deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., selected two Iraqi warrant officers to do the honors. They're also two of his five hydraulic students from Squadron 23, the first postwar era Iraqi airlift squadron here to fly C-130 aircraft.

"I chose to have two Iraqi students tack on my stripes because some of the reason I got promoted was I had time to study on prior deployments to the Middle East helping their country achieve democracy," said Sergeant Beason.

It's a part of the world he's intimately familiar with. "I've been over here (in forward operating locations throughout Southwest Asia area of responsibility) every year since 1993," said Sergeant Beason, a mechanic who has worked on four different airframes from EC-135s to C-130Es.

But until now he's never had the opportunity to work closely with the people he was supporting.

"Iman (which roughly translates to the spiritual leader in the group) is like my Iraqi father and the other guy is affectionately known as Iraqi Bubba because he is like the Iraqi Air Force's version of me," said Sergeant Beason of the two men who he asked to tack on his stripes at the base promotion ceremony May 30.

What did his students think about getting a chance to give their teacher a friendly punch on the arm to signify him moving from one rank to the next?

"I didn't want to hit him hard because

he's my teacher and a good man, and I didn't want to offend him," said Iman, who also had his own reasons to celebrate that week.

"It's a big day for us all and we're very happy to celebrate with him," he said.

Three is a powerful number for Sergeant Beason - or at least it was June 1. It was the day his students graduated from step four of training (which is similar to attaining a 5-level or journeyman status in the



Photo by Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel

Two Iraqi students tack on master sergeant stripes for their hydraulics teacher, Master Sgt. Bubba Beason, 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron pneudraulic systems technician, May 31. Sergeant Beason chose the students because they and the rest of their countryman are part of the reason he got promoted in the first place.

Air Force) and one step closer for them to assume control of their own airlift capability without American assistance. It was also his 32nd birthday and the day he officially put on his master sergeant stripes.

"It really meant a lot for them to be there at my promotion ceremony the day prior," said Sergeant Beason. "Granted being promoted to master sergeant is a big step; however, I think being able to allow the Iraqis participate in one of our oldest traditions is also a big step.

"When I got back to my seat, I teared up. I will never forget this day in my life. We are over here to train them on how we operate and do things, who says we can't train them on how we celebrate," Sergeant Beason jokingly said.

The ceremony was an eye-opener for his students because even though many of them have served in the Iraqi Air Force for many years, they don't observe the same tradition as American Air Force

members.

"Pretty much the way they got promoted in their Air Force (during Saddam's reign) was by time in service and they don't make a big deal out of it like we do.

"One of the guys that tacked on my stripes has as much time in the Iraqi Air Force, as I do on the earth," Sergeant Beason said.

The men didn't initially want to strike their instructors arm because they do not hit a teacher in jest.

"One of the guys didn't want to hit my left arm because they only hit the right (because touching the left arm or hand is taboo in Arabic culture). We had a laugh on that one. After I assured them that it was a tradition in my Air Force, they were really excited," Sergeant Beason said.

The men told Sergeant Beason when they celebrate it often gets a tad bit louder at their parties.

"When I told them I was getting promoted on my birthday, one of my students wanted to know if I was going to shoot a gun in the air, throw a grenade or set off some dynamite.

"I couldn't stop laughing at the notion, but that is how they celebrate. I told him that we don't celebrate like that in the United States and he told me once he got home, he would shoot off some rounds for me," Sergeant Beason said.

For Sergeant Beason, this deployment has been about breaking down stereotypes he built over many years of watching bad press about Iraqi citizens.

But to his surprise the same people he once mentally fought against brought him food and gifts, asked him about his family and took a genuine interest in his life.

"When we got back from the ceremony, they somehow got a birthday cake and decorated the room with what party supplies they could find. It was really special," said the native of Little Rock, Ark.

"They're my family now, and I will truly miss them when I leave," he said.

*The students faces are masked to protect them from insurgents who may wish to harm them.*





## OIF What it means to me

**By Jessica Jones, 11**

*Daughter of Master Sgt. Gregory Jones, 407th AEG*

Operation Iraqi Freedom started on March 20, 2003. Before we Americans went over to help the good Iraqi citizens, horrible things happened. Saddam Hussein mistreated the people where he lived, when they did nothing to harm him. Although we did catch Saddam, we are still fighting for the freedom of the Iraqi citizen's because there are still people who want to keep Saddam's way of mistreating the innocent. There are some sick people in this world, who like doing that kind of stuff! Because we're fighting for the freedom of Iraqi citizens, they have voted for the first time in many, many years! It's really sad thinking that all of the people have to hide in their house just to be more safe. It's hard watching the news seeing all of these troops that are dying, so they can save the life of other people. Most of all, it's hard to think that my dad, the one who tucks me in every night, is going to Iraq for the whole summer,

and the beginning of sixth grade! The good thing is that he's going to be on a base called Tallil (now Ali Base), very close to Saudi Arabia! I'm glad he's not going to actually be fighting in the war! He's going to be buying supplies, and be dealing with money. I doubt this will happen, but I just hope that anywhere close to where my dad is staying doesn't get bombed! I know that's a horrible thing to think about, but he's going to Iraq! That's what happens there. I think Operation Iraqi Freedom is one of the best things happening in this world. We're helping the people who sometimes hate us, but now they love us! That makes me very happy inside! Just watching the troops in Iraq, helping the people, makes me want to go there and do the same thing! I would love to go and help all of the people and make their day. I think that would make my day, too! Just seeing their face light up would be awesome! I thought I should write a true story rather than fake. I just wrote this because I'm glad people are taking their time to do this. I also wrote this because my dad is going to Iraq in May, and will be back in September or October. I hope my dad and the many others will be O.K.!

*Mrs. Jones' article was originally written for a class project. It is slated to be published in the Anthology of Short Stories by Young Americans. Ali Perspective is a column dedicated to publishing photos or text submitted by Team Ali members that hit home the mission of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group. Send submissions to Tallil.Times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil. Submission is not a guarantee of publication in the Ali Times and will conform to content guidelines. For more information, contact public affairs at 445-2318.*

## Prevent getting stuck in a hot tent this summer



**By Capt. Teresa Rose**

*407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron*

### How to get broken evaporating cooling units fixed **FAST** in Bedrock City and at your work center

The heat is on and you've just finished working a 12-hour shift in the hot sun. You can't wait to get back to your cozy tent to relax and play your Xbox, but you walk into your tent only to find it seems almost as warm inside as out.

Frustrated, tired, angry and hot, you decide to take matters into your own hands and fix the problem by adjusting the temperature control on the ECU.

Finally, after messing with the ECU for 15 minutes, you give up and call 445-2CES (2237).

Members who adjust the controls on their evaporating cooling unit often damage the unit by freezing the coils, according to Captain Teresa Rose, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. ECUs with frozen coils often take three hours to fix, versus one hour, keeping the tent's occupants out in the heat longer. The heating, ventilation and air conditioning technicians urge Bedrock residents to call them at 445-2CES immediately if their ECU is not functioning properly.

Within a short amount of time, a heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician arrived to find that your adjustments to the unit caused it to be inoperable because you broke the thermostat by turning the knob too far. Now, the coil is frozen from being set too low.

So instead of it taking less than an hour for the HVAC technician to repair, it takes three hours to thaw the coils, troubleshoot the problem and change out the unit for a new one. Meanwhile, replacing that broken thermostat costs the Air Force, or in some circumstances maybe you, more than \$350 to repair - a large price to pay for anyone.

Now, let's replay this scenario with a different ending. If you think your ECU is not functioning correctly, immediately call 445-2237 (2CES) so an HVAC technician can come out to determine if the unit needs repaired. That way you're AC will only be off for approximately one hour versus three or four, which means you'll get back into a nice cool tent and playing Xbox that much faster.

Also, if you call a problem in, please stay at your tent or office until the HVAC technician arrives, which is usually within 30 minutes or less, so you can help them pin point the exact problem. This will save both of you time and ensure your comfort.

In the end, calling 445-2CES instead of taking matters into your own hands will save you time and help you keep your cool.





## Pea gravel walkways in Bedrock City

**Rumor:** Is it true all of Bedrock City will get pea gravel walkways? We like it, and it's easier to walk on.

**Fact:** The current pea gravel walkways are to assist in traveling from tents to highly-used areas like the latrine, showers, gym, Big Top, Hot Spot and parking lots for the short-term. We have to be careful not to lay down too much pea gravel because it disrupts proper drainage during the rainy season. The long term plan is to asphalt walk paths after the installation of the new living trailers slated for early 2006. I have some good news though. In the near future, we are going to lay down a half-mile pea gravel track within Bedrock starting at Row A to Row H where Airmen can run for both timed events and recreation. We are very happy to hear the positive feedback on the paths and look forward to making life better for all Bedrockers.

*Master Sgt. Todd Kern, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant, responded to this week's rumor: He can be reached at 445-2083.*

### Got a rumor...

Don't speculate! Get the facts by e-mailing the [Ali.Times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:Ali.Times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil) or call Chief Master Sgt. Susan Ferguson at 445-2027.



## Community clean-up

The First Four Council is sponsoring a Bedrock City cleanup day June 11 at 9 a.m. behind the chapel annex. Please come out and help keep your community clean. For more information, call Senior Airman Michael Garza, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, at 445-2615.

## 407th AEG Warrior of the Week 1st Lt. Jennifer Mack



**Unit:** 407th Air Expeditionary Group

**Duty title:** Protocol officer

**Home unit:** 377th Services Squadron, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

**Why other warriors say she's a warrior:** Lt Mack's protocol responsibilities began the moment she set foot on the base and has not stopped. She has the ability to juggle the demands of a constantly changing schedule with a smile on her face and kind words to pass along. She seems to always put others first and has patience that we all can learn from.

**What is your most memorable Air Force experience:** Meeting the president and vice president of the United States

**Hobbies:** Reading, singing and teaching aerobics

## Identify This



**KNOW WHAT THIS IS?** Each week, the "Ali Times" staff takes a photo from around Ali Base. If you can identify the object, e-mail us at [Ali.Times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:Ali.Times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil) with "Identify This" in the subject block. The first person to correctly identify the object first gets their name printed in the Ali Times and **wins a complimentary t-shirt or coin** from the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron. Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Rafael I. Rodriguez III, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, who correctly identified last week's Tallil Times of a gas mask filter.





Photos by Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

(Left to right) Airman 1st Class Dineh Keesling, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron; Army Spc. Joe McCandless, 57th Transportation Battalion, 122d Corps Support Group; and Army 2nd Lt. Scott Nelles, 3/112th Armor Battalion, 56th Brigade Combat Team; belt out a gospel tune at the chapel's contemporary worship service. The service is held 7 p.m. Sunday nights. The band is comprised of both Army and Air Force rotational forces and is always looking for members.

# A worshipful experience

Contemporary worship service melds different backgrounds, acoustical talents

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

407th AEG Public Affairs

For one noncommissioned officer here going to the chapel's contemporary worship service on Sundays feels a little bit like going home.

"It feels like church," said Army Staff Sgt. Joey Carter, 56th Brigade Combat Team deployed from the Texas Army National Guard, Fort Worth, Texas, who plays the piano. "It doesn't feel like your typical military service.

"He (Maj. Charles Perry, 407th Air Expeditionary Group chaplain) invites the spirit into service and makes it a worshipful environment," Sergeant Carter said.

And part of making it a worshipful environment is the band. A combination of both Air Force and Army members, they meld their musical talents into one team to play before and after the sermon.

Currently, they have drums, piano, guitar, bass guitar, vocals, two back up singers and a lead guitar.

"I love to sing and there is a freedom that I feel when singing God's praises that I can't really feel in any other activity that I do," said Airman 1st Class Dineh Keesling, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron, who has also sang in the choir at another

operating base in the Southwest Asia area of responsibility and her home station McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. "Its like when I am up there singing nothing else really matters even if I have had a bad day."

Some of the members also play at several different services. "We're a good mixture of a lot of different talent," said Sergeant Carter. "There is a mixture of rock and roll overtones, gospel, Contemporary Christian, Southern rock and country."

"The best part of being in this band is we're giving something back to the entire community; we aren't just one service-oriented."

Airman Keesling agrees. "They are (the band) fun to be around and always have a positive outlook on things even though we are not in the greatest conditions. It's almost like we are all one big family," Airman Keesling said.

Both members said performing in the band will be one of the deployment's highlights.

"It's a neat blend," said Sergeant Carter. "I'm going to go through a lot of Air Force rotations (in a year). You meet so many people, and then you run into them at the chow hall or the post exchange. It's neat."

For more information or to join the band, e-mail Sergeant Carter at joey.f.carter@us.army.mil or call 833-1467.



# Just for Fun

Presented by the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron

## Today

7:30 p.m., Combat  
Bingo at Big Top

ball at the Big Top  
8 p.m., Air Hockey  
10:30 p.m., Spin

## Saturday

7 a.m., 1-on-1  
basketball Tourney  
2:30 p.m., Pilates  
8 p.m., Uno  
8 p.m., 2 Ball challenge  
10:30 p.m., Spin

## Thursday

5:30 a.m., Tai Chi  
8 a.m., 8-ball  
2:30 p.m., Tai Chi  
7 p.m., Intramural dodge  
ball at the Big Top  
8 p.m., 8-ball  
9 p.m., Self defense  
10:30 p.m., Tai Chi

## Sunday

8 a.m., 3-Point shoot out  
8 a.m., 9-Ball  
7:30 p.m., Jujitsu  
8 p.m., 9-Ball  
8:30 p.m., Absolute Abs

## Monday

8 a.m., NCAA Football  
7 p.m., Intramural dodge  
ball at the Big Top  
8 p.m., NCAA Football  
9 p.m., Self defense

## Tuesday

5:30 a.m., Tai Chi  
2:30 p.m., Tai Chi  
7 p.m., Intramural dodge  
ball at the Big Top  
10:30 p.m., Tai Chi

## Wednesday

8 a.m., Air Hockey  
2:30 p.m., Pilates  
7 p.m., Intramural dodge



## Got ideas?

Give Services a call at 445-2696

# Cricket Movie Theater

## HOT SPOT

## Today



**The Ring 2, 8 a.m.,** To escape her haunting memories, Rachel moves to start fresh. However, her resolve quickly turns to dread when she realizes Samara is back and more determined than ever to continue her relentless cycle of terror and death. Starring Naomi



**Kingdom of Heaven, 11 a.m.** Set in 12th century Europe and the exotic East, Kingdom of Heaven is an epic romantic action film about a young peasant who becomes a renowned knight, saves a kingdom, and falls in a love with a princess. Starring Orlando Bloom.



**Be Cool, 2 p.m.,** With a promising young pop-star-in-training as his protégé, Chili has to juggle her faux-urban manager, his wannabe-actor bodyguard, Russian mobsters and an eloquent gangsta music producer to save the label and land a hit – and keep from getting popped himself. Starring John Travolta, The Rock, Cedric the Entertainer and Vince Vaughn.



**Miss Congeniality II, 5 p.m.,** Bullock returns in the sequel as FBI Special Agent Gracie Hart who heads to Las Vegas on a new case with a fellow FBI agent, Murciano. Starring Sandra Bullock and Regina King.



**The Diary of a Mad Black Woman, 8 p.m.,** About a woman who is rudely surprised to find, on the eve of her 20th wedding anniversary, that her husband wants to divorce her and marry her best friend. Starring Elise Shemar, Steve Harris and Shamar Moore.



**Are we there yet, midnight,** Nick is trying to land a date with Suzanne but she is miserable without her kids. He seizes the opportunity to look good and reunite them with their mom. But her children will do everything they can to make the trip a nightmare for him. Starring Ice Cube and Nina Long.

## Saturday

Kingdom of Heaven, 8 a.m.  
Be Cool, 11 a.m.  
Miss Congeniality II, 2 p.m.  
The Diary of a Mad Black Woman, 5 p.m.  
Are we there yet, 8 p.m.  
The Ring 2, midnight

## Tuesday

The Diary of a Mad Black Woman, 8 a.m.  
Are We There Yet, 11 a.m.  
The Ring II, 2 p.m.  
Kingdom of Heaven, 5 p.m.  
Be Cool, 8 p.m.  
Miss Congeniality II, midnight

## Sunday

Be Cool, 8 a.m.  
Miss Congeniality II, 11 a.m.  
The Diary of a Mad Black Woman, 2 p.m.  
Are We There Yet, 5 p.m.  
The Ring 2, 8 p.m.  
Kingdom of Heaven, midnight

## Wednesday

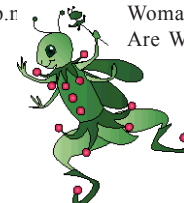
Are We There Yet, 8 a.m.  
The Ring II, 11 a.m.  
Kingdom of Heaven, 2 p.m.  
Be Cool, 5 p.m.  
Miss Congeniality II, 8 p.m.  
The Diary of a Mad Black Woman, midnight

## Monday

Miss Congeniality II, 8 a.m.  
The Diary of a Mad Black Woman, 11 a.m.  
Are We There Yet, 2 p.m.  
The Ring II, 5 p.m.  
Kingdom of Heaven, 8 p.m.  
Be Cool, midnight

## Thursday

The Ring 2, 8 a.m.  
Kingdom of Heaven, 11 a.m.  
Be Cool, 2 p.m.  
Miss Congeniality II, 5 p.m.  
The Diary of a Mad Black Woman, 8 p.m.  
Are We There Yet, midnight





### Sunday

**7:30 a.m.**, Catholic Confession at chapel/chaplain's Office  
**8 a.m.**, Roman Catholic Mass at chapel  
**8 a.m.**, Church of Christ Service at religious activity center  
**9:30 a.m.**, Traditional Protestant service at chapel  
**10 a.m.**, Latter Day Saints service at Army RAC  
**10:30 a.m.**, Roman Catholic Mass at Camp Cedar  
**12:30 p.m.**, Gospel service at Big Top  
**6 p.m.**, Contemporary Praise Team rehearsal at chapel  
**7 p.m.**, Contemporary Worship service at chapel

### Monday

**6 p.m.**, Weekday Mass at chapel  
**7:30 p.m.**, Gospel choir rehearsal at Big Top  
**7:30 p.m.**, Discipleship Bible study/fellowship at chapel  
**7:30 p.m.**, Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage at chapel annex



### Tuesday

**7 a.m.**, Weekday Mass at chapel  
**Noon**, Church of Christ lunch/study at RAC  
**7 p.m.**, Right of Christian Initiation of Adults/chapel annex  
**7:30 p.m.**, Bible study (Book of Acts) at chapel

### Wednesday

**5 p.m.**, Catholic choir rehearsal at chapel  
**6 p.m.**, Weekday Mass at chapel  
**8 p.m.**, 40 Days of Purpose Bible study at chapel annex (starts June 1)

### Thursday

**7 a.m.**, Weekday Mass at chapel  
**6:30 p.m.**, Catholic Choir Rehearsal at chapel  
**7 p.m.**, LDS study at Army RAC  
**7:45 p.m.**, Gospel Service Bible study at chapel

### Friday

**11:45 a.m.**, Islamic prayer at Army RAC  
**6 p.m.**, Weekday Mass at chapel  
**6:30 p.m.**, Jewish Service at RAC  
**7 p.m.**, Church of Christ Bible study at RAC  
**7:30 p.m.**, Gospel choir rehearsal at chapel

### Saturday

**5:30 p.m.**, Catholic confession at chapel/chaplain's Office  
**6 p.m.**, Catholic Vigil Mass at chapel  
**7 p.m.**, Contemporary Praise Team rehearsal at chapel

Worship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Oasis of Peace Chapel, unless otherwise noted. The chapel is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection. For details on worship opportunities, call 445-2006.

## Inspirational moments... Letting go to receive

Jenny was a bright-eyed, pretty five-year-old girl. One day when she and her mother were checking out at the grocery store, Jenny saw a plastic pearl necklace priced at \$2.50.

How she wanted that necklace.

When she asked her mother if she would buy it for her, her mother said, "Well, it is a pretty necklace, but it costs an awful lot of money.

"I'll tell you what. I'll buy you the necklace, and when we get home we can make up a list of chores that you can do to pay for the necklace. And don't forget that for your birthday Grandma just might give you a whole dollar bill, too. Okay?" Jenny agreed, and her mother bought the pearl necklace for her. Jenny worked on her chores very hard every day, and sure enough, her grandma gave her a brand new dollar bill for her birthday. Soon Jenny had paid off the pearls. How Jenny loved those pearls. She wore them everywhere – to kindergarten, bed and when she went out with her mother to run errands.

The only time she didn't wear them was in the shower – her mother had told her that they would turn her neck green.

Now, Jenny had a very loving daddy. When Jenny went to bed, he would get up from his favorite chair every night and read her favorite story.

One night when he finished the story, he said, "Jenny, do you love me?"

"Oh yes, Daddy, you know I love you," the little girl said.

"Well, then, give me your pearls."

"Oh Daddy, not my pearls!" Jenny said. "But you can have Rosie, my favorite doll. Remember her? You gave her to me last year for my birthday. And you can have her tea party outfit, too. Okay?"

"Oh no, darling, that's okay." Her father brushed her cheek with a kiss. "Good night, little one."

A week later, her father once again asked Jenny after her story, "Do you love me?"

"Oh yes, Daddy, you know I love you."

"Well, then, give me your pearls."

"Oh, Daddy, not my pearls! But you can have Ribbons, my toy horse..."

"No, that's okay," her father said and brushed her cheek again with a kiss. "God bless you, little one. Sweet dreams."

Several days later, when Jenny's father came in to read her a story, Jenny was sitting on her bed and her lip was trembling. "Here, Daddy," she said and held out her hand.

She opened it and her beloved pearl necklace was inside. With one hand her father held the plastic pearls and with the other he pulled out of his pocket a blue velvet box.

Inside of the box were real, genuine, beautiful pearls.

***The Lord will never take away something without giving you something better in its place.***